

EMR-WS1 - A Primary Care Clinical Workstation

**Leslie L. Cortés, M.D.
Austin VA Satellite Outpatient Clinic
Department of Veterans Affairs**

EMR-WS1 is an Electronic Medical Record WorkStation designed around a patient chart metaphor. It is compatible with existing VA computing resources, and it anticipates the development of a fully functional clinical workstation capable of serving as both a front-end to the VA's Decentralized Hospital Computer Program and as a stand-alone primary care patient record system.

Written in Microsoft™ Visual Basic using Windows GUI Applications guidelines and a consistent visual metaphor, the user interface builds on the GUI intuition that all PC users gain from working with standard Windows applications.

The electronic medical record consists of a problem list, progress notes, medical illustrations, allergy list, medication profile, EKGs, radiology reports, and laboratory reports. Medical illustrations may include digitized radiographs, 24-bit color images, graphed laboratory results, and free-hand drawings.

The chart metaphor includes chart navigation aids, a prescription pad, an illustration pad, selectors for physician orders and user-defined encounter forms, coding tools, and graphing tools. A built-in text scanning tool utilizes user-defined Summary Templates to automate chart perusal. Using these templates, the text scanning summary tool can quickly identify QA and health maintenance issues.

EMR-WS1 provides controls for launching standard Windows and DOS applications. These controls may be tailored to allow users to easily launch their preferred word processing, spreadsheet, drawing, scanning, or CD-ROM applications from within EMR-WS1. Data exchange relies on the Windows clipboard to import laboratory data and illustrations obtained through telecomputing.

Later developments will include: 1) support for audio data, 2) decision support tools, 3) data extraction tools to support research, 4) a problem-oriented formulary, 5) E-mail awareness, and 5) tools for creating problem-specific chart views.